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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence

Comment on US draft reply to Soviet note:

It must be emphasized that the US draft reply to the latest Soviet note is a working draft which may be substantially changed and undoubtedly will be shortened.

It represents a reiteration of the Western proposal that a four-power meeting be held to discuss the formation of a commission for an investigation of electoral condition in Germany. Both in its refutation of the Soviet Union's position on discussing a German peace treaty first and in its enunciation of the Western position, the US draft is more forthright than heretofore, but no new proposals are offered.

Coordination of a reply among the Allies is not expected to meet with any great difficulty. It may be noted, however, that there is a considerable body of official French opinion that has not given up hope for a four-power discussion, and this attitude could be reflected in the tone of the final draft.

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